

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A clothing attachment device for an external component of a hearing prosthesis, the attachment device comprising:

an elongate member adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of ~~clothing; and~~
clothing;

~~a receiving means an engagement housing having disposed therein a plurality of non-spherical engagement members collectively adapted to receive at least a portion of the elongate member and releasably engage therewith with said engagement members; and~~

an unlocking device configured to release said elongate member from said non-spherical engagement members when said elongate member is engaged to said engagement members,

~~wherein at least one of said elongate member and said receiving means are mountable engagement housing is configured to be mounted to the external component and the engagement of said elongate member and said receiving means is releasable by an unlocking device.~~

2. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein the elongate member is a pin member extending from a proximal end to a distal end.

3. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 2 wherein the pin member extends outwardly from a casing of the external component to its distal end.

4. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 3 wherein the proximal end of the pin member is integrally connected to the casing.

5. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein the elongate member comprises a head and a pin member extending from the head to a distal end.

6. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing is mounted to a casing of the external component.

7. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 6 wherein the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing comprises an orifice extending into the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing from a front surface thereof, the orifice being able to receive at least a portion of the length of the elongate member.

8. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 7 wherein the orifice extends from the front surface to a chamber within the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing.

9. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 8 wherein the chamber of the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing has a inner wall of which at least a portion thereof is frusto-conical such that the chamber expands in diameter away from the front surface of the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing.

10. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 9 wherein the ~~receiving means~~ engagement housing further comprises a pin engagement mechanism that frictionally engages the pin member on insertion of the pin member through the orifice and into the chamber.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said at least one of the plurality of engagement members is a~~ members are metallic spherical ~~member members~~.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 12 wherein the engagement members are members are normally biased in an engaging configuration within the chamber.

15. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 14 wherein a biasing means is positioned within the chamber which, when in its relaxed condition, displaces the plurality of engagement members towards the front surface of the ~~receiving~~ means engagement housing and into the engaging configuration.

16. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 15 wherein the biasing means is a spring and plate, the spring being mounted between a rearward end of the chamber and the plate, and the plate being mounted to a forward end of the spring.

17. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 16 wherein the unlocking device is a magnet having a magnetic field of a strength sufficient to overcome the bias provided on the engagement members by the biasing means and so cause the engagement members to move rearwardly relative to the chamber when brought adjacent a rear surface of the ~~receiving~~ means engagement housing.

18. (Original) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein the hearing prosthesis is a cochlear implant.

19. (Currently Amended) An external component of a medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed adjacent said casing;

a receiving means an engagement housing having disposed therein a plurality of non-spherical engagement members and mounted to the casing; and

an elongate member adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing and be received in the receiving means engagement housing and releasably engage therewith with said engagement members;

wherein the engagement of said elongate member and said receiving means engagement housing is releasable by an unlocking device.

20. (Original) The external component of claim 19, wherein the medical device is a cochlear implant.

21. (Currently Amended) An external component of a medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed adjacent said casing;

an elongate member having a disc and a pin member adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing; and

a pin member engagement device having a plurality of magnetic spheres disposed in a circular arrangement within a non-magnetic chamber, the chamber having an inner wall, of which at least a portion is frusto-conical such that the chamber expands in diameter away from a front surface of the engagement device, the pin engagement device also having a spring acting and mounted between a rearward end of the chamber and a plate, the spring being adapted to urge the plate against the spheres within the chamber;

wherein an orifice is formed in the engagement device to enable entry of the pin member into the chamber and thereafter frictionally engage with the plurality of spheres, the engagement of the pin being releasable by a magnet acting on said plurality of magnetic spheres and having a magnetic field of a strength sufficient to overcome the bias provided on the spheres by the spring and so cause the spheres to move rearwardly relative to the chamber.

22. (Currently Amended) An external component of a medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed adjacent said casing;

an elongate member extending outwardly from the casing and adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing; and

a receiving means adapted to receive at least a portion of the elongate member and releasably engage therewith;

wherein the engagement of said elongate member and said receiving means is releasable by an unlocking device.

23. (Original) The external component of claim 22, wherein the medical device is a cochlear implant.

24. (Currently Amended) An external component of a medical device, the external component comprising:

an elongate member;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed in said external device;

a retaining means for frictionally retaining at least ~~a portion~~one portion of the elongate member in a first configuration and for releasing the at least one portion in a second configuration; and

a biasing means for biasing the retaining ~~device means~~ into the first configuration;

wherein the retaining means is incorporated into the external component to enable the external component to be fastened to an item of clothing worn by a user of the external component, when the retaining means is frictionally retaining the said at least ~~a portion~~one portion of the elongate member.

25. (Original) The external component of claim 24, wherein the elongate member is releasable from the retaining means by momentarily counteracting the biasing means to cause the retaining means to assume the second configuration.

26. (Original) The external component of claim 25, wherein at least a part of the retaining means comprises a magnetic material and the biasing means is counteracted by applying a magnetic field to the at least a part of the retaining means.

27. (Original) The external component as claimed in claim 26, wherein the biasing means is a spiral spring.

28. (Original) The external component as claimed in claim 27, wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of spheres disposed in a substantially circular arrangement within a chamber.

29. (Currently Amended) The external component of claim 28, wherein the hearing prosthesis medical device is a cochlear implant.